

Message Text

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22-12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 VO-03

FBIE-00 INSE-00 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 SCA-01 EB-07 COME-00

DHA-02 /070 W

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R 291802Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4521

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS: BUSTAMANTE CITES "CARELESS"
USE OF FIGURES BY U.S. OFFICIALS

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH INFLUENTIAL EXCELSIOR PUBLISHED
APRIL 28, DR JORGE BUSTAMANTE OF THE COLEGIO DE MEXICO
STRONGLY CRITICIZED USG OFFICIALS FOR THEIR "CARELESS" USE
OF FIGURES ON UNDOCUMENTED MEXICAN MIGRATION TO THE U.S.
CITING RECENT INCIDENTS IN WHICH MEXICAN MIGRANTS WERE
ATTACKED BY OUTLAW GANGS IN SAN DIEGO AREA, BUSTAMANTE
CHARGED THAT EFFECT OF SUCH CARELESS PUBLICITY BY U.S.
AUTHORITIES WAS TO INFLAME PATRIOTIC PASSIONS AGAINST
DEFENSELESS MEXICANS AND THUS DAMAGE OVERALL RELATIONS
BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

2. BUSTAMANTE'S CHARGES WERE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME ONES HE
VOICED IN RECENT BILATERAL MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN
U.S. AND MEXICAN INTER-SECRETARIAL COMMISSIONS ON UNDOC-
UMENTED MIGRATION (BUSTAMANTE PARTICIPATED AS A NON-GOVERN-
MENTAL MEMBER OF MEXICAN COMMISSION). HE RECITED STATISTICS
ON VIOLENCE AGAINST MEXICAN MIGRANTS CONTAINED IN RECENT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY STUDY, AND HE DISPLAYED AMERICAN NAZI

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PARTY PAMPHLET CALLING FOR DEPORTATION OF ILLEGALS AS

EXAMPLE OF HOW "EXAGGERATED" FIGURES AND INFLAMMATORY RHETORIC ABOUT "SILENT INVASIONS" WERE EXPLOITED TO FOSTER SUCH VIOLENCE.

3. CITING CRITICS OF INS-SPONSORED LESKO STUDY, BUSTAMANTE ARGUED THAT--CONTRARY TO POPULAR IMPRESSIONS NOW BEING GENERATED IN U.S.--UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS AS A RULE PAY INCOME AND SOCIAL SECURITY LEVIES LIKE EVERYONE ELSE BUT SELDOM HAVE A CHANCE TO CASH IN ON BENEFITS. MOREOVER, HE SAID, CHECKS WRITTEN BY MEXICAN MIGRANTS, BOTH LEGAL AND UNDOCUMENTED, ARE FREQUENTLY DISCOUNTED BY BANKS AND BUSINESSMEN. "WHEN WE ARE FINALLY ABLE TO ESTABLISH A SCIENTIFICALLY ACCURATE FIGURE FOR NUMBER OF UNDOCUMENTED MEXICANS IN U.S., AS WELL AS SALARIES THEY RECEIVE,"BUSTAMANTE ADDED,"WE'LL BE ABLE TO PRESENT A BILL TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE U.S. FOR THE CONTRIBUTION REPRESENTED BY (MEXICAN MIGRANTS) LABOR TO THE U.S. ECONOMY AND TREASURY."

4. COMMENT: BUSTAMANTE CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY REFERENCE TO LAST WEEK'S MEETING IN WASHINGTON AND THE DISCUSSIONS THERE REGARDING "INFLAMMATORY" STATEMENTS BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, HIS OBVIOUSLY STAGED NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW SHOWED THAT THE MEXICAN SIDE, NO LESS THAN THE U.S., IS CAPABLE OF USING MEDIA TO AROUSE UNFRIENDLY SENTIMENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MIGRATORY WORKERS, IMMIGRATION CONTROL, DOCUMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO05477
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760166-0264
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976048/aaaaagbm.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS: BUSTAMANTE CITES "CARELESS" USE OF FIGURES BY U.S. OFFICIALS
TAGS: PBOR, SREF, ELAB, MX, US, (BUSTAMANTE, JORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006